

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): ~~A β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ An isolated or purified β 1,3-1,6 glucan obtainable obtained from *Aureobasidium* strain FERM P-18099 medium.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A method for producing ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan comprising:
culturing an *Aureobasidium* fungus strain FERM P-18099 that produces ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan in a culture medium for a time and under conditions suitable for production of ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan in said culture medium.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 3, further comprising recovering ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan from the culture medium.

Claim 6 (Original): A culture medium produced by the method of Claim 3.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The culture medium of Claim 6, wherein said medium contains about 3-5 mg/ml of *Aureobasidium* ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan.

Claim 8 (Original): A composition comprising from about 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the undiluted culture medium of Claim 6.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A composition comprising the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A food product comprising the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~
 β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The food product of Claim 10, wherein said food
product is aseptic and comprises 0.001-100 mg/gr of said β 1,3-1,6 glucan.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The food product of Claim 10, which is a ~~health food~~
or a nutritional supplement milk product.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A cosmetic or personal care product comprising the
 ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): An antimicrobial solution or disinfectant comprising
the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A composition for binding to, or for removing, an
environmental contaminant comprising the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn, Currently amended): A method for preventing or treating an
inflammatory disease, and infectious disease, or cancer comprising administering an effective
dose of the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn, Currently amended): A method for treating chronic articular
rheumatism, collagen disease, newly-risen autoimmune disease, virus or bacterial infection,
cancer, invasive or metastatic cancer, oncogenic virus, neuropathy, dementia, Alzheimer's
disease, hepatic disease, cirrhosis, viral hepatic disease, cryptogenic intractable disease, life
habit disease, diabetes, hypertension, arterial sclerosis, osteoporosis, or hemorrhoid
comprising administering an effective dose of the ~~β -1,3-1,6-glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1
to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn, Currently amended): A method for sanitizing, or protecting an
object from microbial contamination, comprising contacting said object with the ~~β -1,3-~~

~~1-6glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn, Currently amended): A method for preventing nosocomial infections, comprising sanitizing hospital personnel, patients, surfaces, equipment, supplies or instruments with the ~~β 1,3-1,6glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn, Currently amended): A method for removing an environmental contaminant, comprising contacting the contaminant with the ~~β 1,3-1,6glucan~~ β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 21 (New) A method for removing microbes from a body surface comprising: selecting a subject having a body surface in need of the removal of microbes, and contacting said body surface with the β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1.

Claim 22 (New) A product comprising
an antimicrobial dosage of the β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1,
which is formulated as a disinfectant or sanitizer.

Claim 23 (New) A product comprising the β 1,3-1,6 glucan of Claim 1, which is not formulated as a detergent, food additive or cosmetic additive.
